

M I N U T E S

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management
Resource Advisory Committee
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000

June 13, 2002
Siuslaw/Willamette Conference Room
Bureau of Lane Management – Eugene District

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Category 1: Judy Fitzgerald, Joannell Mogstad, Ross Mickey, and Steve Woodard
Category 2: Edward Alverson, James Baker, Robert Keefer, Penny Lind, and James Thrailkill
Category 3: Bud Hinman, Jamon Kent, John Lindsey, Anna Morrison, and June Olson

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Category 1: None
Category 2: James Fairchild, and Linda Susan Kelly
Category 3: None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Category 1: Peter Hackett
Category 2: None
Category 3: None

ALTERNATES ABSENT:

Category 1: David Schmidt
Category 2: None
Category 3: Philip Barnhart, William Dwyer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayne Elliott (Designated Federal Official), Julia Dougan (Eugene District Manager), Carla Alpert, Pete Barrel, Diana Bus, Richard L. Cook III, Mary D'Aversa, David Eisler, Bill Gilmore, David E. Hale, Jack Hall, Jim Hallberg, Ray Kinney, Don Meckley, Glenn Miller, Ethan Nelson, Eric Nusbaum, Phil Redlinger, Emily Rice, Jerry Richeson, Jake Risley, Pat Russell, Mike Saben, Terry Smith, Darren Strenger, Debby Todd, Jenny Velinty, Chuck Vostel, Mark Wilkening, and Denis Wise

Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliot called the meeting of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 to order at 9:40 a.m. He stated that appropriate

notice of the meeting had been published and that public comment was scheduled to be received immediately after the noon recess. He noted that a quorum was present and reported that Member Peter Hackett had asked to be excused from the meeting.

Mr. Elliott said the next meeting of the RAC was scheduled for July 25 and would be held in the Lane County Public Works Department Conference Room, 3040 North Delta Highway, Eugene.

Mr. Elliott stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review information on projects submitted for funding for fiscal year 2003 from Title II funds of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Jamon Kent moved, seconded by Member Bud Hinman, that the minutes of the March 14, 2002, meeting of the RAC be accepted. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0.

AGENDA AND MEETING PROCEDURES

Meeting Facilitator Mark Wilkening reviewed the agenda of the meeting. He emphasized that presentations would be limited to 15 minutes, including discussion. He said members with unanswered questions should submit them in writing and that answers would be reported to all members.

Mr. Wilkening referred to posted criteria for determining RAC recommendations regarding proposed fiscal year 2002 projects adopted at the previous meeting, as follows:

1. Maximum amount of good on the ground. Finance efficiency.
2. Connection between projects.
3. Funding by category.
4. Measurable results within 18 months – physically measurable.
5. Ready to go. NEPA complete
6. Funding Partners.
7. Multi-year funding planned. Stand alone for all users.
8. Money amount spent on NEPA/EAs, etc.
9. Consider economy of scale when dealing with multi-year projects.
10. Variety of projects, suite of projects across the spectrum.
11. Spend it all.

Mr. Wilkening stated that members could choose to adopt or alter the criteria for their recommendations for fiscal year 2003.

Mr. Wilkening referred to posted Meeting Guidelines presented at the first meeting of the RAC, as follows:

1. Practice collaborative behavior
2. Do not interrupt others and please no side conversations
3. Everyone gets a chance to speak
4. Listen with respect
5. Listen first to understand
6. Make sure to extend an understanding to the expertise of each committee member
7. Focus on committee issues and objectives
8. Leadership is the responsibility of all members
9. Be recognized before speaking
10. Start on time. Late-Comers can catch up
11. Recognize everyone's ideas
12. Be clear and concise when speaking; don't ramble
13. Ground rules can be amended as needed

STATUS OF FISCAL YEAR 2002 PROJECTS

Mr. Elliott presented photographs and described the status of work on projects approved for fiscal year 2002 Title II projects, as follows:

Leopold Creek Culverts
Hult Pond Road Chip Seal Paving
Goodpasture Culvert
Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Crossings
Abandoned Car Removal
Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Channel Enhancement
Scotch Broom Inventory
Juvenile Forest Work Team
Lane County Forest Work Camp

Members discussed the Scotch Broom Inventory Project – its effectiveness, difficulties, problems created by propagation by plant nurseries, other funding for the work, and the need for aggressive eradication.

PROJECTS FROM WATERSHED COUNCILS, PRIVATE CITIZENS, AND OTHERS

Clay Creek and Whittaker Creek Trail Reconstruction and Tent Pad Construction

Ethan Nelson stated that he represented the Northwest Youth Corps, sponsor of the proposed Clay Creek and Whittaker Creek Trail Reconstruction and Tent Pad Construction project. He distributed copies of a flyer entitled “Northwest Youth Corps – Outdoor Jobs for Teens.” He explained that the objectives of the proposed project were to create 50 tent pads for campers and repair damage to approximately 1.5 miles of hiking trail that had resulted from winter storms and heavy use. He said the project would provide work for ten youth and two supervisors.

Member Anna Morrison asked if the project was similar to work done by crews of the Lane County Juvenile Forest Work Camp. Mr. Nelson replied that the work could be done by either organization. He said projects of the Northwest Youth Corps were planned on the availability of funds.

Chairperson James Baker stated that it was his understanding that programs of the Northwest Youth Corps were prevention for at risk youth and provided real work experience in a difficult job. Mr. Nelson added that a focus of the program was on self-determination and education.

Member Bob Keefer asked for a description of the tent pads to be created. Mr. Nelson explained that the pads would be created in already existing campsites and would be designed to minimize damage to the area.

Ms. Morrison asked if the proposal were a multi-year project. Mr. Nelson replied that the project was a one-year project, but that the Northwest Youth Corps would likely apply for funding for a different project in the next fiscal year.

Ms. Morrison asked if the Northwest Youth Corps received funding from the Federal Workforce Displacement Act. Mr. Nelson replied that a small amount of funding was received from the Act for other Corps programs.

Member Jamon Kent asked how much participants in programs of the Northwest Youth Corps were paid. Mr. Nelson replied that the budget for the project would be approved by the BLM and would include pay of \$6.75/hour for the youth aged 14-16 who would work 35-40 hours a week. He said it was unlikely the project could be undertaken for less.

Willamette Basin Weed Control Coordination

Denis Wise stated that he represented the Willamette Restoration Initiative, sponsor of the proposed Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Management Partnership project. He distributed copies of a document which described the goals, objectives, functions and provisional time line of the proposed partnership. He reviewed strategies of the Oregon Department of Agriculture “Noxious Weed Strategic Plan,” the US Forest Service “Guidelines for Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds,” Willamette Restoration Initiative, and BLM “Partners Against Weeds”

action plan promoting development of partnerships to develop cooperative weed management control efforts.

Mr. Wise explained that organization of the Weed Management Partnership would likely be a four to five year process. He said \$30,000 had already been committed to the project by the Salem RAC, \$36,000 by the Salem BLM District, and \$18,000 by other federal programs. He said additional funding was also being sought.

Mr. Wise said the project would support the work of two interns who would study, adapt and create education material and develop presentations to develop the proposed partnership. He said schools and the nursery industry would be included in the efforts of the project. He said an operational plan would be developed by its steering committee.

Ms. Morrison asked if the funding requested was for more than one year. Mr. Wise replied that it was not and that if additional funding was not secured in the future the project could fail.

Member Edward Alverson asked for an explanation of the budget for the project and if funding for the project by the National Wildlife Foundation had been considered. Mr. Wise replied that the project was likely too large for the foundation to fund. He said that the total of \$90,000 for personnel in the budget of the project was being sought from RACs, and that foundations and other sources were being approached for the remaining one-third of its budget.

Mr. Kent asked if the Partnership was close to being organized. Mr. Wise replied that the project was being guided by a Steering Committee which was “on track” for its completion.

Mr. Kent asked if adjustments in the project would make organizing the Partnership possible with fewer resources. Mr. Wise replied that there was some flexibility in the plan and time line. He said the goal of the project was developing a weed management area.

Member Penny Lind asked if agribusiness and other relevant industries were making contributions to the Partnership. Mr. Wise replied that such businesses would make contributions as they became partners in the project.

Member John Lindsey asked if the school education portion of the project could be used in other programs. Mr. Wise replied that duplicate use of material developed was anticipated and that it was funded in part from a grant from Washington State.

Mr. Alverson asked why planning for the weed management area was proceeding as it was. Mr. Wise replied that the proposal was adapting successful organization efforts in other areas. He explained that it was not being initiated by the State of Oregon because of its lack of staff.

Ms. Morrison said she was concerned that planning for the Partnership would duplicate efforts by other organizations.

Mr. Lindsey said he was concerned that the complexity of issues related to week management would make the project impossible. Mr. Wise replied that the Partnership would bring together disparate interests in the problem to work on a “landscape scale.”

Chairperson Baker declared a 15 minute recess at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Keefer left the meeting.

Rat/Harms Creek English Ivy Removal Watershed Council Training and Educational Project

David Hale stated that he resided at the confluence of Rat and Harms Creeks. He described the effects of the invasion of English Ivy noxious weeds in the area and proposed a project for its removal on a 40 acre plot as a model for the remainder of the Rat Creek watershed. He said the project would provide contracting and work experience for high school students. He said other private land owners would also be involved in the project.

Mr. Hale said he had formed Oregon Resource Alternatives Inc. to organize a state and nationwide program of education for watershed council members on securing federal funding for projects and public outreach. He said a steering committee would prepare a guide to relevant resources and hire a staff person to provide the training. He said the organization would serve as a “clearing house” for various projects.

Ms. Morrison asked if the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment had been completed for the proposed Ivy Removal project. Mr. Hale replied that it had not.

Ms. Morrison asked if application had been made for OWEB grant included in the budget for the Ivy Removal project. Mr. Hale replied that it had not because the project was in its beginning stages.

Ms. Morrison asked if any public land would be included in the area proposed to have ivy removed. Mr. Hale replied that the area included two acres of BLM land, two to three acres of his personal land, and some owned by Weyerhaeuser Corporation.

Ms. Morrison asked how monitoring of the Ivy Removal project would be carried out. Mr. Hale replied that it was still to be developed, but would include inspection performed on site.

Ms. Morrison asked why federal funding for the Watershed Council Training project was being proposed when they were operated by the State of Oregon. Mr. Hale replied that he did not believe the State was capable of organizing the effort.

Member James Thrailkill asked if applications had been made for funding of the Watershed Council Training project as identified in its cost analysis. Mr. Hale replied that they were yet to be completed, but that the project did not depend on the grants.

Mr. Thrailkill asked how the Ivy Removal project would be a model. Mr. Thrailkill replied that it would serve as a model in neighboring areas only and would be an educational process for students participating.

Mr. Thrailkill asked why no letters of support from watershed councils had been included with the application for the proposed projects. Mr. Hale replied that he could have one prepared by the council on which he served.

Mr. Thrailkill asked if there were other training programs for preparing funding applications for watershed councils. Mr. Hale replied that he was aware of and used some, but that he was intending the project to be relevant across agencies. He said the program would not duplicate, but coordinate other available programs.

Ms. Lind asked how the Ivy Removal project would benefit native plant species, as stated in the proposal. Mr. Hale replied that removal of the ivy would encourage native species to propagate.

Mr. Alverson asked if the distribution of ivy in the Rat Creek watershed had been mapped and how much of it was being addressed in the proposed project. Mr. Hale replied that location of the ivy had been identified and that it was being worsened by bird distribution and had been spread by the 1997 flood in the area.

Mr. Alverson asked how the employee expense of Ivy Removal project had been calculated. Mr. Hale replied that compensation had been set at \$8.00/hour since experienced workers were needed.

Mr. Kent asked if monitoring funds for the Ivy Removal project were needed all at once. Mr. Hale replied that the project would work in any way that it was funded, but that getting the funds up front would ensure its availability.

Mr. Lindsey suggested that if the projects were not funded and Mr. Hale returned with applications in future fiscal years, it would be helpful to have pictures of sites proposed for projects and to have more specific and finalized budget numbers.

Siuslaw Water Quality Assessment

David Eisler stated that he represented the Siuslaw Watershed Council and presented its proposed project to study and publicize information regarding the toxicity of recreational fishing sites in the watershed. He explained that a previous study of a single site funded by the US Forest Service had determined that dissolved lead from lost fishing sinkers was a limiting factor for salmon population recovery. He said the proposed study would also seek to determine if there were dangers to human health present.

Peter Burrell, Siuslaw Watershed Council staff, stated that efforts were already underway to deal with the sale of lead fishing equipment to eliminate its concentration in popular areas.

Member Judy Fitzgerald asked what was the goal of the proposed project. Mr. Eisler replied that the data gathered would be presented to regulatory agencies to encourage mitigation to reduce the effects of lead in the areas of concern.

Mr. Thrailkill asked if the Siuslaw Watershed Council was promoting measures to protect human health in relation to the lead contamination. Mr. Eisler replied that it was not currently doing so and appeared to not be enthusiastic about taking on such a problem.

Member Steve Woodard asked what quality assurance measures would be established to guarantee the accuracy of measurements taken in the project. Mr. Eisler replied that he did not believe any standards for such assurance had yet been taken since the project was still in its planning stages.

Mr. Alverson asked what mitigation of problems of lead toxicity could be undertaken. Mr. Eisler replied that it would likely be necessary to remove existing lead piece by piece, but that care needed to be taken because of the dangers of contact absorption through the skin.

Member Ross Mickey asked how water samples were taken in the previous assessment project, whether background and natural lead levels were accounted for, and how the problems of diluted lead would be addressed. Mr. Eisler described water sampling techniques used including testing for diluted toxins and how plant, insect, and animal sampling was included in the process.

Mr. Keefer re-joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Exotic and Noxious Weed Control Project

Eric Nussbaum stated that he was administrator of the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District. He reviewed the background and purpose of soil and water districts. He said the proposed weed control project would provide inventory and control of exotic and noxious weeds in conjunction with the BLM and private land owners. He said its focus would be “on the

ground” efforts. He said management of the project, education of land owners and plant nursery businesses, and outreach through school conservation education programs. He said there would be coordination with other groups and funding sources.

Ms. Morrison said she was concerned that funding of the proposed project would be wasted because Lane County had determined that personnel on grant-funded projects would not be added as employees after expiration of their grant. She said she was also concerned that NEPA requirements had not yet been met and that the project might be over staffed. Mr. Nussbaum replied that the purpose of the project was to coordinate weed control and that existing agencies with such responsibilities were understaffed. He said the project would make it possible to work with private land owners and that he would submit a list of owners currently involved.

Mr. Lindsey said he was also concerned about the high cost of the proposed project. He asked if prescribed burning or aerial spraying had been considered for use in the project. Mr. Nussbaum replied that the suggested weed abatement procedures were expensive and outside the scope of its possibilities.

Mr. Kent suggested that the proposed project was related to projects proposed by the Northwest Youth Corps and the Lane County Forest Work Camp. He said they seemed better prepared to organize the work.

Chairperson Baker declared a one hour lunch break at 12:00 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chairperson Baker determined that there was no one present who wished to address the RAC.

Native Seed Network

Mr. Wilkening stated that the institute for Applied Ecology had submitted a proposal for a Native Seed Network to support growers in the production of native plant materials for restoration and re-vegetation. He said a representative of the Institute was not present and referred to the application for the grant that had been included with those distributed to members with the agenda of the meeting.

Cannery Dunes Interpretive Project

Jenny Velinty stated that she was coordinator for the Cannery Dunes Project of Citizens for Florence. She distributed copies of a poem about the Cannery Dune with a letter attached

describing the project. She reviewed the purpose, benefits, goals, and cost of the project described in the letter.

Ms. Morrison asked how the estimate of 1,000 visitors to the project site had been determined. Ms. Velinty replied that surveys had been taken. Debby Todd of Citizens for Florence added that information was also taken from a traffic study conducted by the Fred Meyer Corporation at the time of the construction of its store at the entrance to the site of the proposed project.

Ms. Morrison asked if there were plans to have school children bussed to the site of the project. Ms. Velinty replied that future plans included development of an interpretive center and a trail at the site, but that the current project only included construction of a sign. Ms. Todd said that a revised estimate of \$8,000 as the cost of the sign was included in the distributed letter.

Mr. Lindsey asked how the project would improve and benefit the Cannery Dune. Ms. Todd replied that the sign would be placed on private land designated as public access to the Dune which was BLM property.

Mt. Pisgah/Buford Park Oak Restoration Assessment

Jake Risley stated that he was Park Planner for Lane County. He described the Mt. Pisgah/Howard Buford Recreation Area as the largest park in the county and said it contained the best example of the remaining remnant oak habitat in the Willamette Valley. He said such habitats were being degraded by the invasion of noxious weeds and succession of conifer trees. He said the proposed project was preparation for development of a restoration and management plan for the upland areas of the park.

Ms. Morrison left the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Darin Stringer stated that he was working for Lane County as a forester. He said goals of the project were to support restoration of the uplands habitat to ensure its biodiversity and recreation values and to use the knowledge gained to improve management of oak resources on federal lands. He said the assessment would determine the condition of plant communities, predict fire behavior and model treatments to reduce fire risks, characterize its pre-settlement structure, and prioritize treatments needed to achieve the long-term goals.

Ms. Lind asked if there would be public involvement in the proposed assessment. Mr. Risley replied that the study would provide information for management decisions and that submitting an application for Title II funds had been approved by the County Parks Advisory Committee.

Ms. Lind asked if the area was in danger from Oak diseases. Mr. Stenger replied that such diseases did not yet affect White Oak which made up the bulk of the trees under consideration.

Mr. Lindsey asked if the proposal was to create an “Oak Farm” in the park. Mr. Stenger replied that conditions of all areas, including many without trees, would be assessed in the project. He said it was intended to make the area more habitable to Oaks.

Mr. Alverson asked if crews from the County Forest Work Camp or Department of Youth Services were used in Mt. Pisgah. Mr. Risley replied that such crews had been used in the park in the past.

Forest Work Camp Juvenile Forest Work Team

Terry Smith stated that he represented Lane County and that the proposed Forest Work Camp and Juvenile Forest Work Team proposals were renewals of project approved in the previous fiscal year. He said they addressed problems of invasive species control, forest health, trash removal, trail construction and maintenance, watershed restoration, and recreation site maintenance on federal land. He said the programs were mostly funded by Lane County General Fund and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title I resources. He explained that technicalities in the Act required that food and supplies for the projects needed to be paid by Title II funds.

Member Joanell Mogstad asked how work for the crews was determined. Mr. Smith replied that projects were prioritized by the federal land managers and that weather and crew availability conditions were considered.

Mr. Keefer asked if persons detained in the John Serbu Juvenile Justice Center would participate in the juvenile work crews. Mr. Smith replied that security consideration made such participation unlikely and that most on such crews were assigned by a court in lieu of detention. He explained that mandated community service was not paid, but that there were other funding issues involved.

Mr. Alverson asked how the expenses of the two projects were allocated for funding from the various federal land management agencies involved. Mr. Smith replied that it was divided proportionately according to the anticipated work to be done.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if there was any involvement of persons assigned to the Lane County Day Reporting Center on work crews. Mr. Smith replied that work crews from the Day Reporting Center were not assigned to work on federal land.

PROJECTS FROM THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Hult Pond Area Road Improvement

Phil Redlinger reminded members of the RAC recommendation to fund Hult Pond area road improvement with Title II funds in fiscal year 2002. He reviewed the status of progress on the project and said the current application would finish its Phase I and resurface the road. He distributed copies of a map which showed the location of Phases I, II, and III of the project.

Cottage Grove Lake/Big River Stream Crossing Replacement and Installation

Don Meckley distributed copies of a map showing the location of Cottage Grove Lake/Big River Stream Crossing Replacement and Installation project recommended for approval by the RAC in fiscal year 2002. He described the purpose and progress of work on the project. He said the current application was for only fiscal year 2003. He explained that the work was contracted out and that BLM staff were only involved in its inspection.

Ms. Morrison re-joined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Tyrrell Seed Orchard Access Road Paving

Glenn Miller stated that the Tyrell Seed Orchard Access Road Paving project had been proposed for funding in fiscal year 2002 but had not been recommended for approval by the RAC. He said the proposal had been revised to request funding from Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title II resources for only one-half of the cost of the project. He reviewed details of the project and said it would provide unique benefits to the public. He explained that the project was ready to begin.

Mr. Keefer asked how many vehicles used the road each day. Mr. Miller replied that he would estimate there were 30 or more.

Ms. Lind asked if any commercial traffic used the road. Mr. Miller replied that some traffic was generated by conifer seed businesses, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and farming cooperatives.

Mr. Lindsey left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Invasive Plant Species Control

Diana Bus stated that the Invasive Plant Species Control project was built on the Scotch Broom Satellite Inventory project funded in fiscal year 2002. She explained that the goal was to reduce the spread of noxious weeds by preventing vehicle contact with seed sources along road sides. She said \$100,000 was being requested from Title II funds to be combined with \$153,000 from

other BLM sources. She said the work was similar to that carried out by Forest Work Camp crews but would be completed by contractors on property on which the camp crews could not go.

Member Bud Hinman asked what eradication methods would be used in the project. Mr. Buss replied that only mechanical removal methods would be used and that no herbicides would be involved. Mr. Elliott explained that a new NEPA would be required to use herbicides and that its use would likely be highly controversial.

Ms. Morrison requested that a cost comparison of herbicide and mechanical removal methods be provided to members of the RAC. She said if the cost were significantly less, she would favor the use of herbicides to eradicate more weeds. Mr. Elliott said it would be possible to estimate the cost of the application of herbicides, but that the expense of environmental analyses, appeals, court cases, NEPA costs, and problems caused by delays in the project were more difficult to estimate.

Member June Olson requested that the costs of controlled burning of noxious weeds also be investigated. Ms. Buss stated that the cost of "Wipuna" (hot water method) was being studied.

Ms. Lind said she believed it was important to factor into any cost analysis the job opportunities created by mechanical removal methods.

Mr. Kent asked why the project was being proposed for only one year. Mr. Elliott replied that doing so reflected the budget cycle of the BLM.

Ms. Mogstad asked how locations for work generated by the project were determined. Ms. Buss replied that the results of the satellite survey would be utilized.

Ms. Morrison asked if areas with the highest infestation of noxious weeds as identified by the survey would be chosen. Mr. Elliott replied that the project would concentrate on areas where the weeds could be spread by automobile traffic.

Goodpasture Road Improvement

Mike Sabin distributed copies of maps identifying the location of road surfacing and culvert replacement proposed in the Goodpasture Road Improvement project. He described the road as a Lane County right-of-way across BLM land that ran parallel to the McKenzie River. He said its location made it low on the priority list of County maintenance and not normally provided maintenance by the BLM. He said there was also no maintenance agreement with property owners who might use the road.

Mr. Sabin said the objective of the project was to improve draining and abate sediment production. He said it was planned as a two-year project because it did not appear to be possible

to complete all of the work in a single season and because the project would require closing of the road. He reviewed the cost estimate for the project.

Mr. Alverson asked how cross drains would prevent sediment production. Jerry Richeson replied that some areas identified did not currently have such drains and that some would be designed to trail water into the bushes. He explained that stream crossing culverts would be brought up to 100 year flood standards.

Mr. Alverson asked if paving the road had been considered. Mr. Richeson replied that it had, but that additional culvert work was planned in the future and it was considered to be unproductive. Mr. Sabin added that paving the road would likely change the use of the road, but that an analysis of the impacts had not been done.

Chairperson Baker declared a ten minute recess at 2:50 p.m.

Ms. Morrison left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Shotgun Recreation Site Disability Access Improvement

Mr. Richeson said the Shotgun Recreation Site had been opened in May 1977, before adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He said there were approximately 60,000 visitors a year to the site and that an ADA assessment of the site was conducted in 2001. He said the BLM was committed to bringing the site up to ADA standards and that the Improvement project would correct drinking fountain and deficiencies of the showers and restroom facilities and beach. He explained that many elements of the project would be undertaken as part of regular maintenance at the Site.

Ms. Mogstad asked what engineering costs were included in the budget of the proposed project. Mr. Richeson replied that redesign of approaches to various facilities was required.

Chairperson Baker recommended that representatives of area disability groups be contacted for evaluation of proposed changes. He said the site was in a prime location to do the ADA upgrades.

Mr. Woodard suggested that ADA standard water fountains be added to, not replace currently existing fountains.

Mr. Keefer asked why the project was not paid for with day use fees charged at the site. Mr. Richeson replied that such fees were included in the operating budget of the site and would not cover the most expensive of the improvements included in the proposed project.

Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Channel Enhancement

Chuck Vostal circulated photographs of stream structure improvement completed in a project recommended for approval by the RAC in fiscal year 2002. He said similar work was intended in the current project and that it would complement nearby work done in fiscal year 1999. He said the majority of the two-mile stretch to be improved was in BLM land. He reviewed the cost of the project.

Ms. Lind asked where logs to be placed in the stream would be secured. Mr. Vostal replied that logs felled in winter storms and removed as hazards from throughout the district would be used.

Removal of Abandoned Car and Garbage Dumping Site Removal

Mr. Elliott said the proposed project was expanded from what was recommended by the RAC for approval for fiscal year 2002. He explained that \$4,000 had been added for removal of additional vehicles and \$35,000 added to cover the cost of the removal of a garbage dumping site. He said details of the proposal had not yet been completed and would be supplied at the next RAC meeting.

Ms. Mogstad asked if attempts were made to identify those who dumped garbage on BLM land. Mr. Elliott replied that security regularly inspected recently dumped garbage seeking names or addresses of likely perpetrators.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Wilkening encouraged members to submit questions regarding project proposals. He said answers would be provided before the next meeting.

Mr. Wilkening stated that the RAC would need to determine whether changes should be made to Criteria for Choosing Projects used in developing the previous round of recommendations.

Mr. Hinman asked how much would be available to fund fiscal year 2003 Title II projects. Bill Gilmore replied that \$1,321,311 was available, including that which would be dedicated to Eugene BLM District administrative support, RAC operating cost, and funds unspent from fiscal year 2002.

Ms. Lind requested that changes and budget upgrades for proposals be provided to members before the next meeting. She also asked that projects be “categorized” to make RAC meeting time more productive.

Mr. Alverson requested that time be allocated at the next RAC meeting for discussion of expanding the number of applicants for fiscal year 2004 resources. He said he believed many additional organizations, such as watershed councils, would be interested in developing proposals for funding.

Chairperson Baker suggested that the amount available for funding in the various categories be determined as far in advance as possible.

Mr. Wilkening said he believed members were asking to have the RAC involved in the process of solicitation of proposals.

Ms. Mogstad suggested that provisions for identifying the quantity of work to be completed in a proposed project be included in applications.

Mr. Keefer suggested that BLM staff be less involved in completing work such as NEPA requirements in applications.

Ms. Lind suggested that including maps and or pictures to show locations of projects be a requirement of applications.

Ms. Lind said she believed it would be important to remain sensitive to the inexperience of some who propose projects.

Ms. Fitzgerald suggested that copies of project proposals be “double-side” printed for RAC members.

Mr. Woodard suggested that material for RAC members be shipped by US Mail, not a package delivery service.

Mr. Kent suggested that an ongoing record be kept at meetings of decisions that are made.

Mr. Wilkening said he believed a way needed to be devised to avoid the natural pressure that came from the requirement of having each membership category come to agreement before recommendations on project proposals were made.

Mr. Hinman said he believed it was helpful to separate BLM project proposals from those of other groups and individuals.

Mr. Keefer suggested that members consider individually ranking projects before the next meeting.

Mr. Kent said he believed doing prioritization of projects as a group early in the process led to easier final decision making.

Mr. Alverson said he believed it would also be helpful to identify projects for which there was consensus to recommend for funding early in the process.

Mr. Wilkening suggested that membership groups might want to caucus early in the process to determine if there was consensus regarding projects which should be supported or rejected.

Mr. Wilkening asked if there was agreement to continue to use the Criteria for Choosing Projects identified at the previous meeting.

Mr. Alverson said he did not believe there was consensus about the list, but that he did not believe it would be profitable to take the time to come to agreement about it.

Mr. Alverson suggested that it would be helpful to have information about additional funding to be included in a proposed project. Ms. Fitzgerald added that whether such funding had been secured or applied for should be identified.

Chairperson Baker suggested that it would be important for applicants to identify the effects of receiving funding for a project for a single year. Ms. Lind added that it would also be helpful to know the effects of reducing funding from what was requested.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)